

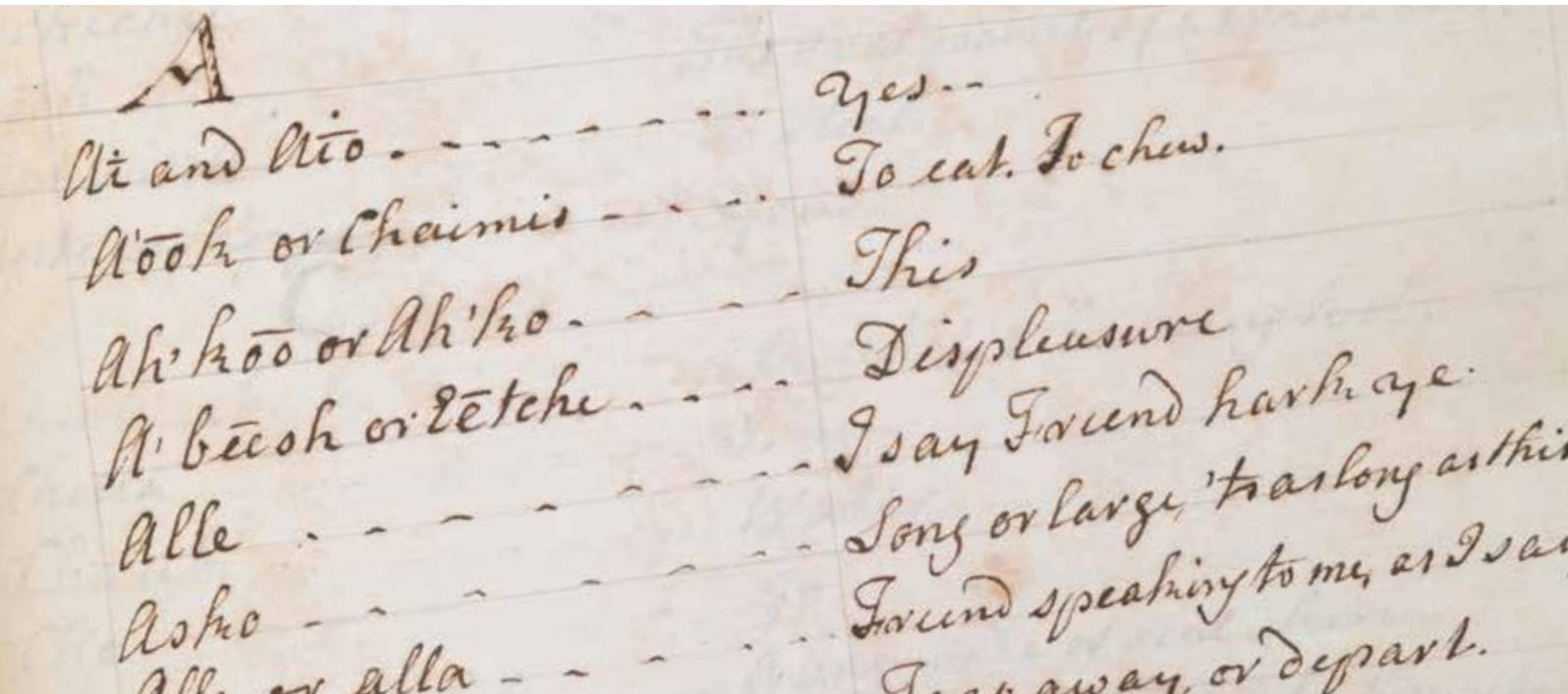
Language Keepers

Preserving the Indigenous Languages of the Pacific

A National Library of Australia Conference

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 February 2019 | 9.30am–4.30pm

THEATRE
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA
PARKES PLACE, CANBERRA



Wordlist from Nootka Sound (Vancouver Island), North Pacific (detail), f.413r in James Cook (1728–1779), *Journal* (1776–1779), British Library, London, Egerton MS 2177 A © British Library Board

Wordlists recorded on Cook's three Pacific voyages are invaluable sources for historians and First Nations peoples today. They show people coming together, trying to make themselves understood, and trying to understand each other. This conference highlights these wordlists, as well as the wide variety of work being undertaken in language preservation in the cultural, academic and community sectors.

Over two days, experts from Australia and the Pacific will reveal how European travellers recorded the languages of the Pacific, and how the revitalisation of Indigenous languages is supporting cultural practice and healing. Language Keepers will demonstrate the important work being undertaken by many organisations and communities in this sphere and celebrate the many examples of revitalisation of Indigenous languages of Australia and the Pacific.

Language Keepers: Preserving the Indigenous Languages of the Pacific is both the closing event surrounding the National Library of Australia's exhibition *Cook and the Pacific* and the first event presented by the Library in association with the United Nations International Year of Indigenous Languages.

Cost

\$100 for two days | \$60 for one day only
(Morning and afternoon tea provided,
lunch self-funded)

Day One: Saturday 9 February

MC: John Paul Janke

9am **REGISTRATION**

9.30am **Welcome to Country**

Paul House

Ngambri-Ngunawal Custodian

National Library Welcome

The Hon. Dr Brett Mason

Chair, Council of the National Library of Australia

10am **SESSION 1: KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

A Voice in the Smoke

Professor Kim Scott

Aboriginal languages might be regarded as major denominations in the currency of identity and belonging. Professor Kim Scott will speak about his involvement in efforts to return archival Aboriginal (Noongar) language material to its home community and landscape, and to empower members of that community through control and sharing of their heritage of story and song.

11am **Morning Tea (Foyer)**

11.30am **SESSION 2: THE EARLY COLLECTORS**

Sources of colonial history include many records about Indigenous peoples covering a range of subjects, including significant documentation of Indigenous languages. This session explores how these collections can help to revive Indigenous languages today.

Language Records from Cook's Voyages (15 mins)

Dr Susannah Helman and Hollie Gill

Expeditioners on Cook's voyages documented languages of Pacific peoples, offering us extraordinary evidence of the many meetings that took place. Susannah and Hollie will speak about the language records featured in the National Library of Australia's *Cook and the Pacific* exhibition and the insights they gained while working with First Nations communities to bring these records to life.

The Vitality and Promise of a New Relationship (15 mins)

Paul Diamond

In their 2011 survey of the origins of written Māori, Alison Jones and Kuni Jenkins observe that these beautiful texts, written by Māori and Pākehā (non-Māori New Zealanders) working together, are evidence of the 'vitality and promise of a new relationship'. The texts include the first known example of independent writing, a letter written in 1825 by Eruera Pare Hongi. Paul will highlight this letter and other examples of early written and printed Māori held by the Alexander Turnbull Library (National Library of New Zealand).

Q&A (15 mins)

12.30pm **Lunch** (self-funded)

Day Two: Sunday 10 February

MC: Dan Bouchier

9am **REGISTRATION**

9.30am **Welcome to Country**

Tyronne Bell

Ngunawal Traditional Custodian

SESSION 5: LANGUAGE LESSON

A Lesson in Ngunawal

Tyronne Bell

10am **SESSION 6: REVIVING LANGUAGES**

A panel discussion of language revival across Australian and Pacific communities.

Participating Chair: Professor Jakelin Troy

Panel: Merehau Anastas, Professor Rawinia Higgins and Dr Michael Walsh

11am **Morning Tea (Foyer)**

11.30am **SESSION 7: RE-PLACING—LANGUAGE AND PLACE**

European explorers generally mapped placenames from afar. Re-placing examines what happens when Indigenous knowledge and naming is put back on the map.

Using Historical Maps to Identify European Recordings of Aboriginal Language in the Illawarra Region (15 mins)

Dr Elisabeth Moylan

Early explorers of Australia generally mapped placenames from afar while on their boats. Later, surveyors were directed to map Indigenous placenames, supporting the efficient re-establishment of locations. How placenames are recorded on historical maps reveals the level of interaction between the person recording placenames and those who lived there.

Contemporary Communities and Nineteenth-century Archival Materials (15 mins)

Associate Professor Helen Gardner

We cannot now research colonial and settler histories about Indigenous Australians without the support of the contemporary Indigenous communities that are the descendants of those represented in archives. This presentation will focus on community interest in language and the partnerships engendered through Helen's project on the A.W. Howitt material held principally in Victoria.

The Mapping of Aboriginal Language Countries (15 mins)

Dr Peter Sutton

Early accounts acknowledged a close association between Indigenous Australian languages and physical landscapes, but it has taken over a century for that relationship to be deeply grasped by scholars. The mapping of landscapes in fine detail has been a key factor in furthering this understanding, building a more nuanced and complex picture of language countries.

Q&A (15 mins)

12.30pm **Lunch** (self-funded)

2pm

SESSION 3: VOICES FROM THE ARCHIVES

Significant recordings of Indigenous languages are held in archival collections. *Voices from the Archives* looks into how these recordings can assist Indigenous communities to revive or relearn their culture.

Reviving Daisy Bates' Vocabularies (15 mins)

Associate Professor Nick Thieberger

Nick outlines how the National Library presents the 21,000 pages of manuscript material collected in the early 1900s and representing vocabularies from a number of Western Australian Indigenous languages. Previously only available on paper or microfilm, digitisation has made them searchable, citable, and re-usable.

Building a Collection: The National Library of Australia and Oral Histories from Indigenous Peoples in Australia and the Pacific (15 mins)

Dr Shirleene Robinson

The National Library of Australia plays a unique role in building and preserving an oral history collection that is truly reflective of Australia and its place in the world. Shirleene explores the historical and contemporary collection of oral histories from Indigenous peoples in Australia and the Pacific, asking what role this collection plays and what the collecting priorities and challenges are into the future.

Taboo Archives of the Department of Ethnology and Oral Traditions of the Directorate of Culture and Heritage (DCP)—*Pu no te faufa' a tumu* (15 mins)

Merehau Anastas

The DCP is the repository of a precious collection of sound archives of the oral tradition of French Polynesia that it endeavours to disseminate as widely as possible, sometimes encountering dilemmas around giving access to sacred or 'taboo' material.

Q&A (15 mins)

3pm

Afternoon Tea (Foyer)

3.30pm

SESSION 4: LOST LANGUAGE, LOST CULTURE

What are the consequences of languages disappearing? Panel members discuss the experiences of their communities.

Chair: John Paul Janke

Panel: Tyrone Bell, Raymond Ingrey, Aunty Lynette Nixon and Professor Kim Scott

4.30pm

DAY ONE CONCLUDES

2pm

SESSION 8: RETURNING THE WORDS

Language records are often buried within archival collections, creating many challenges for Indigenous communities in locating and accessing them. This session studies the ways that archive keepers can improve access to their extraordinary resources.

PARADISEC Digital Archive (15 mins)

Professor Linda Barwick

This talk reports on the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC), a collaborative digital archive for research recordings in the Asia Pacific region. Linda will show how PARADISEC makes recordings available to those recorded—and their descendants—through partnerships with local communities, and share examples of how PARADISEC's work is used in the revitalisation of Indigenous languages.

Returning Culture to Country (15 mins)

Rebecca Bateman

In consultation with community leaders, the National Library has been returning cultural information found in archival records to Indigenous communities. This work requires the development of new protocols and understanding. Rebecca explores what the Library has learned through its work in this space.

Discovering First Nations Content in Trove (15 mins)

Allison Lubransky-Moy

Trove is a place to discover and engage with the many voices that make up our Australian community. In 2019, Trove will introduce a number of significant enhancements to support discovery and access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander material and ensure the best experience in Trove for First Nations peoples.

Q&A (15 mins)

3pm

Afternoon Tea (Foyer)

3.30pm

SESSION 9: WHY INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES MATTER

The United Nations has designated 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages. This panel will explore why language revival is vital to the future of Indigenous communities.

Chair: Dan Bouchier

Panel: Professor Nicholas Evans, Professor Rawinia Higgins and Professor Jakelin Troy

4.30pm

Closing Remarks

Dr Marie-Louise Ayres

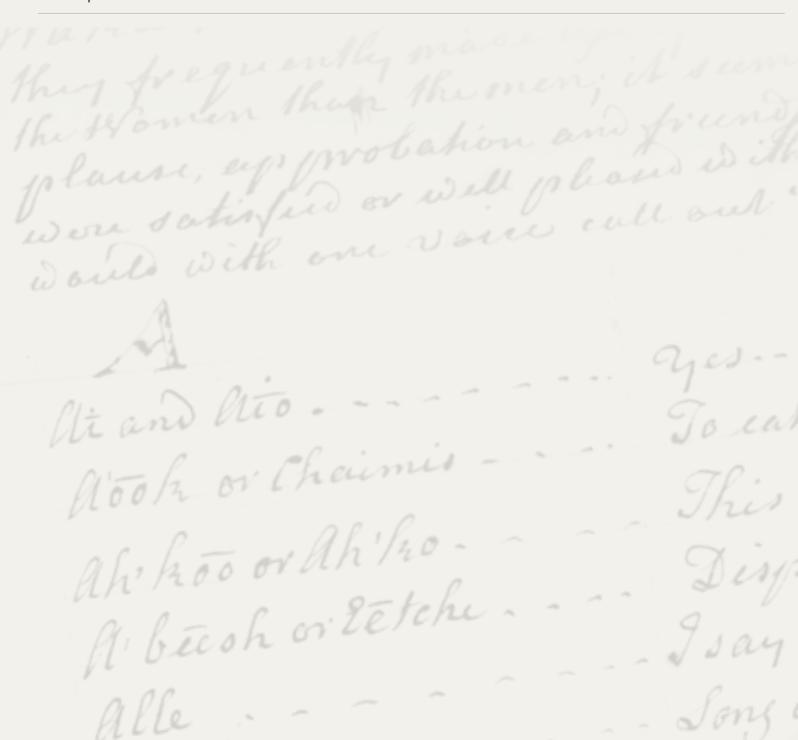
Director-General, National Library of Australia

4.30–

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

7pm

Enjoy extended-hours viewing of *Cook and the Pacific* and *Beauty Rich and Rare*, along with live music, with food and drink available for purchase.



Conference Speakers



MEREHAU ANASTAS

Merehau Anastas is a senior mission officer for the promotion of the languages of French Polynesia at the French Polynesian Ministry of Culture and Environment. A linguist specialising in language policy and oral language teaching, she has collaborated in various government offices as a technical adviser on culture and communication. She is also a writer for the shows of *Heiva i Tahiti*.



REBECCA BATEMAN

Rebecca Bateman is a Weilwan and Gamilaroi woman with family from Warren, in north-west New South Wales, and connections to the nearby Gunnedah region and Charleville in Queensland. Her grandfather grew up on the Brewarrina mission, and several generations of her family were affected by the Stolen Generations. She is proud to be the first Indigenous Curator at the National Library of Australia, coming to this position after 12 years in the family history unit at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and five years at the National Archives of Australia, first as an Indigenous project officer and then as manager of Indigenous services.



LINDA BARWICK

Linda Barwick is a professor at the University of Sydney's Conservatorium of Music and co-founder of PARADISEC, the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures. A champion of digital methods and infrastructure in the humanities, she has worked with communities in Italy, Australia and the Philippines to document and reinvigate performance traditions. She is an elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.



TYRONNE BELL

Tyronne Bell is a Ngunawal descendant who grew up in Yass, learning traditional culture from his father Don Bell. Tyronne has become a strong advocate for the recognition of Aboriginal culture and language, in particular the culture and language of the Ngunawal people, and since 1986 has been involved in many Aboriginal cultural heritage surveys to protect and conserve Aboriginal culture and heritage. Tyronne's passion for his Aboriginal culture and heritage, and his desire to share this knowledge with others, led to the establishment of Thunderstone Cultural and Land Management Services Aboriginal Corporation in 2013, which promotes awareness of the rich Aboriginal culture and history of the Canberra region.



DAN BOURCHIER

Dan Bouchier is a multi-award winning, multi-platform journalist with the ABC. He is a broadcaster, hosting a daily breakfast radio program on ABC Radio Canberra, and anchors ABC Canberra's 7pm news. He has reported across the country and around the world for close to 20 years. Dan grew up in the remote Northern Territory town of Tennant Creek, where he was mentored by elders from around the region, while coming to understand his own Indigenous heritage from his mum's side of the family in coastal and inland parts of Victoria. Dan is driven by giving voice to the voiceless, holding to account those in positions of power, and telling really great, and important, stories.



PAUL DIAMOND

Paul Diamond (Ngāti Hauā, Te Rarawa and Ngāpuhi) was appointed as the inaugural Curator, Māori at the Alexander Turnbull Library in 2011. He worked as an accountant for seven years before switching to journalism in 1997. Paul's journalism has been recognised with Qantas Media awards, Media Peace awards and a David Low Chevening Fellowship to Oxford University. In 2017, he undertook a research fellowship at the National Library of Australia to enhance the description of Māori collections at the Library. Paul is the author of two books—*A Fire in Your Belly* (Huia, 2003) and *Makereti: Taking Māori to the World* (Random House New Zealand, 2007)—and has also worked as an oral historian and broadcaster.



NICHOLAS EVANS

Professor Nicholas Evans is a laureate fellow and distinguished professor of linguistics at the Australian National University, and directs the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language (CoEDL). He has carried out wide-ranging fieldwork on the indigenous languages of Australia and Papua New Guinea, as well as working as a linguist, interpreter and anthropologist in two Native Title claims; as a promotor and interpreter of Aboriginal art; and as a translator of Aboriginal oral literature. His crossover book *Dying Words: Endangered Languages and What They Have to Tell Us* sets out a broad program for engaging with the world's dwindling linguistic diversity.



HELEN GARDNER

Associate Professor Helen Gardner is an historian in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Deakin University, Melbourne. She has written extensively on nineteenth-century colonial anthropology in Australia and across the Pacific Islands. Recently, she has explored contemporary Indigenous use of nineteenth-century archival resources.



HOLLIE GILL

Hollie Gill is a Gunggari woman from south-west Queensland and was one of the National Library's 2017 Indigenous graduates. Hollie was assistant curator for *Cook and the Pacific*. Her exhibition work at the Library has included co-curating an upcoming exhibition on Indigenous languages and assisting with the development of the exhibition *In Cook's Wake: Tapa Treasures from the Pacific*.



SUSANNAH HELMAN

Dr Susannah Helman has worked as a curator since 2004. She co-curated *Cook and the Pacific* with Dr Martin Woods. Her previous Library exhibitions include *The Dunera Boys*; *Handwritten*; *Mapping our World*; *Keepsakes*; *Revealing the Rothschild Prayer Book*; *The Sell*; *Athol Shmith Fashion Photographs*; and various iterations of the Treasures Gallery.



RAWINIA HIGGINS

Professor Rawinia Higgins was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori)/Tumu Ahurei of Wellington's Victoria University in 2016. Her research expertise is in Māori language revitalisation and, more specifically, language planning and policy. In 2015, the New Zealand Minister for Māori Development appointed her chair of the Māori Language Advisory Group, which shaped the Māori language legislation that was enacted in April 2016. Te Mātāwai was created as part of the new legislation and governs the Māori Language Strategy dedicated to whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori communities. In 2018, the Minister for Māori Development appointed her chair of the Māori Language Commission, Te Taura Whiri.



RAYMOND INGREY

Raymond Ingrey is a Dharawal person from the La Perouse Aboriginal community at Botany Bay. He has a number of leadership roles, including as general manager and public officer of Eastern Zone Gujaga Aboriginal Corporation and chairperson of the Dharawal Language Program. The Dharawal Language Program is leading language reclamation in the La Perouse Aboriginal community. Established as a formal program in 2005 and following from work undertaken by elders in the 1980s and 1990s, the program develops teaching resources and programs for early years and adult education settings.



JOHN PAUL JANKE

John Paul Janke is from Wuthathi Country on Cape York Peninsula and from Murray Island in the Torres Strait. He has worked as a journalist and media specialist in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs for nearly three decades, including in positions with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). He is co-owner of Rork Projects, a national Indigenous fit-out and refurbishment company, as well as co-host of NITV's flagship news and current affairs show *The Point* and host of NITV's annual 'sunrise ceremony' on 26 January. John Paul is the co-chair of the National NAIDOC Committee and is the deputy chair of the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre in Canberra.



ALLISON LUBRANSKY-MOY

Allison Lubransky-Moy is a Wiradjuri woman from central New South Wales and works as the Trove Indigenous outreach project officer. Allison is currently providing advice to the Trove Modernisation Program that will bring more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content into Trove and make it easier to find Indigenous-language content in Trove.



ELIZABETH MOYLAN

Dr Elizabeth Moylan is a certified geographic information system (GIS) professional, honorary associate at the University of Sydney's School of Geosciences and the owner of Burra Mapping Services. She has a background in surveying and experience in environmental mapping. Her current research interests are cultural landscapes, people's connections to landscape, and in particular how historical maps and aerial photos can be used to help explore these connections.



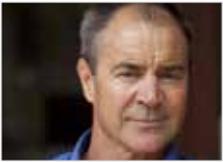
LYNETTE NIXON

Aunty Lynette Nixon is a Gunggari woman from south-west Queensland who is passionate about the revival of traditional language. She has taught the local Gunggari language to school students and has written six Gunggari-language children's storybooks. Aunty Lynette works as the director of the Gunggari Native Title Aboriginal Corporation and is the Gunggari representative on the Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN) committee. She was named 2018 NAIDOC Female Elder of the Year for her incredible contribution and service to the Indigenous community of south-west Queensland.



SHIRLEENE ROBINSON

Dr Shirleene Robinson is the senior curator of oral history and Indigenous programs at the National Library of Australia. She is also an experienced oral historian and the author and editor of a number of books, including *Something like Slavery? Queensland's Aboriginal Child Workers, 1842–1945*.



KIM SCOTT

Kim Scott is a multi-award-winning Noongar author. He grew up near Albany, in southern Western Australia, and worked as a secondary school teacher before turning to writing full-time. In 2000, Scott became the first Indigenous author to win the Miles Franklin Literary Award, with his novel *Benang: From the Heart* (1999). In 2011, he won both the Miles Franklin and the Australian Literature Society's Gold Medal with *That Deadman Dance* (2010). Since completing a PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Western Australia in 2009, Scott has been involved with the Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute and also the Wirlomin Noongar Language and Stories Project. In 2012, he was made a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and also named West Australian of the Year. He is currently a professor of writing in the School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts at Curtin University.



PETER SUTTON

Dr Peter Sutton is an author, anthropologist and linguist who has lived and worked with Indigenous Australian people since 1969. He is a specialist in Indigenous land claims, languages and art. He has written or edited 16 books, the most recent of which are *The Politics of Suffering* (2009) and *Iridescence* (with Michael Snow, 2015).



NICK THIEBERGER

Associate Professor Nick Thieberger is an Australian Research Council Future Fellow and a chief investigator in the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language. He set up the Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre and wrote a grammar of Nafsan (Vanuatu). He is director of the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC).



JAKELIN TROY

Professor Jakelin Troy is a Ngarigu woman from the Snowy Mountains of New South Wales and director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research at The University of Sydney. Her research and academic interests focus on languages, particularly endangered Aboriginal and 'contact languages'; language education; linguistics; anthropology; and visual arts. She has extensive experience developing curriculum for Australian schools, focusing on the Australian language program. She is editor-in-chief of *ab-Original: Journal of Indigenous Studies and First Nations' and First Peoples' Cultures*.



MICHAEL WALSH

Since 1972, Dr Michael Walsh has conducted fieldwork on Australian Aboriginal languages and cultures in the Top End of the Northern Territory, mainly in the Darwin-Daly region. This has comprised a mixture of academic endeavours as well as consultancies since 1979, mainly relating to Aboriginal land issues. Since 1999 he has participated in the revitalisation of Aboriginal languages in New South Wales. He is currently part of a five-year study looking at language reclamation and its effects on health.